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JUN 08 2007**REMARKS:**

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because it exceeded 150 words in length. The abstract has been amended to reduce its length to less than 150 words and is now in compliance with MPEP §608.01(b).

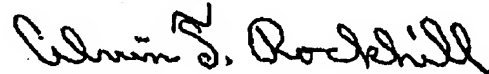
Claims 1-16, 19-24, 26, 27, 29-31, 33, 35 and 43-53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as being their invention. More specifically, the Examiner has noted that claims 1, 26, and 47 do not specify the basis of the ranges delineated therein. In other words, these claims do not explicitly call for the amount of the thermoplastic resin, the rubbery elastomer, the highly saturated elastomer and the oil to be based upon the total weight of the soft thermoplastic composition. However, it is the Applicants' position that persons having ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that all of these ranges are based upon the total weight of the soft thermoplastic composition. This is because the specification explicitly describes the soft thermoplastic composition as being comprised of (a) 5 to 60 parts of the thermoplastic resin . . . (b) 5 to 70 parts by weight of the rubbery elastomer . . . (c) 5 to 90 parts of the highly saturated elastomer . . . and (d) 15 to 200 parts of the oil (see the specification at page 3, lines 18-32). Accordingly, it is apparent that the amounts of the various components of the soft thermoplastic composition are based upon the total weight of the soft thermoplastic composition. In the Office Action of October 6, 2006, the Examiner acknowledged this point by noting, in paragraph 6 on page 4, that the amount of oil was "based on the total weight of the blend composition including the oil." This point was also acknowledged in the Affidavit of Dr. Frank Fcher (see the last sentence in paragraph 3). Even though the Applicants believe that their pending claims are already clear with respect to the basis for the levels by weight of the various components, claims 1 26, and 47 have been amended to explicitly state that there levels are based upon the total weight of the soft thermoplastic composition. In any case, this amendment overcomes the basis of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, delineated in paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

The term "rubbery polymer" in claims 1, 24, 26 and 47 has been amended to read "rubbery elastomer" as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 9, 12, 20, and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as being their invention. To overcome this rejection, claim 9 has been deleted and claim 47 has been amended to eliminate reference to processing aids. Claim 12 has been amended to make clear that the thermoplastic resin is in the hard substrate. Claims 20 and 22 have been amended to establish a proper antecedent basis for the terms "highly saturated elastomer" and "thermoplastic resin."

The amendments made herein put all pending claims fully in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. All of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are accordingly now in a condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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